

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 11419 121409Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EURE-00 /016 W
-----020743 121427Z /43
P 121402Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5998

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 11419

ALSO FOR L/M--PHIL SHAMWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, PDIP, UK
SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ACCORDED
BY HMG

REF: STATE 155809

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 1, REFTEL, HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT (HMG) BASES SUBJECT PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES SOLELY UPON THE VIENNA CONVENTION. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OFFICIAL, "RECIPROCITY" IS SELDOM USED AS BASIS FOR DETERMINING WHAT PRIVILEGES/IMMUNITIES ARE ACCORDED. THIS, OF COURSE, APPLIES ONLY TO DIPLOMATS FORMALLY ACCREDITED TO HMG, AND TO DIPLOMATS IN TRANSIT IN THE UK WHO ARE PROCEEDING TO A NEW POST, RETURNING TO A POST OF ASSIGNMENT OR RETURNING TO THE US. OTHERWISE, US OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS HAVE "NO SIGNIFICANCE" IN THE UK, ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

2. ADDRESSING PARKING AND MOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS SPECIFICALLY, HMG DOES NOT PRESS DIPLOMATIC AGENTS FOR RESTITUTION FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED. THEY DO, HOWEVER, RELEASE VERY SPECIFIC STATISTICS (INCLUDING THE LICENSE NUMBERS OF VEHICLES CITED FOR OFFENSES) TO PARLIAMENT,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 11419 121409Z

WHICH NORMALLY RESULTS IN DISCUSSION (SOMETIMES HEATED) BY PARLIAMENTARIANS AND SUBSEQUENT PRESS COVERAGE.
3. THIS CHANCERY AND ITS CONSTITUENT POSTS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF BOTH OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL (I.E., INDIVIDUAL EXPENDITURES OF ACCREDITED DIPLOMATS) FUNDS FOR VALUE-ADDED-TAX. THIS "INDIRECT TAX" HAS RECENTLY BECOME A SUBJECT OF CONCERN IN THE RATIFICATION

OF A NEW US/UK CONSULAR CONVENTION, AND IS TREATED COMPREHENSIVELY IN THE "RECORD OF THE US-UK CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS, MAY 2-9, 1977" PAPER (PAGES 26-30) PREPARED BY L/M AND SCA/SCS.

3. HMG ASSESSES "RATES" (I.E., TAXES) ON REAL PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY US DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ON A SOMEWHAT ARBITRARY "BENEFICIAL RATE" BASIS. UNDER THIS SYSTEM, HMG PAYS THE FULL TAX ON DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROPERTIES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND THEN ASSESSES THE OWNER OR LESSEE A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE REPRESENTATIVE PORTION OF THE TAX WHICH "DIRECTLY BENEFITS" THE PROPERTY (E.G., MUNICIPAL SERVICES). THIS "BENEFICIAL" PORTION AMOUNTS TO TWENTY OR TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL TAX, DEPENDING UPON THE LOCATION AND THE COST OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE PROPERTY UNDER CONSIDERATION. THIS MATTER ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE CONSULAR CONVENTION PAPER CITED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE (PP. 19-23).

BREWSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON11419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770247-0577
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770767/aaaacglp.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f0ee76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 155809
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1891278
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ACCORDED BY HMG
TAGS: AFSP, PDIP, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f0ee76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009